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E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(S.D.)-Officials Gather For Summit In Rapid City Regarding Tribal Foster Care

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/14/2013 12:35 PM

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, Bureau of Indian Affairs officials and leaders from South Dakota's nine Indian tribes are gathering in Rapid City this week to discuss Indian child foster care in the state.

The summit, scheduled for Wednesday through Friday, is in response to allegations that South Dakota routinely breaks the Indian Child Welfare Act by removing too many American Indian children from their homes and placing them in foster care with non-Indian families.

Under federal law, Native American children removed from homes must be placed with relatives or put in foster care with other Native American families except in unusual circumstances.

Representatives from tribes in Oklahoma, Minnesota and Washington will also be in attendance.